

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 01898 230919Z

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4509
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 1898

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, YE

SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT GHASHMI

1. ON APRIL 22, I PAID A FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT GHASHMI WHICH RAN FOR ALMOST AN HOUR. THE PRESIDENT, WHO HAS BEEN SICK FOR THE LAST WEEK, WAS OBVIOUSLY TIRED BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WANTED TO TALK WITH ME BEFORE MY DEPARTURE. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION AND IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST, I GAVE HIM A BRIEF RUNDOWN OF MY IMPRESSIONS OF YEMEN OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, EMPHASIZING THE CONCERN OF THE USG TO SEE THE EMERGENCE IN YEMEN OF A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SO AS TO ENSURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT YEMEN AGAINST RADICAL SUBVERSION. I ALSO EMPHASIZED TO THE PRESIDENT THE CONTINUED DESIRE OF THE USG WITHIN ITS CAPABILITIES TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO BE HELPFUL TO YEMEN, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. I CONCLUDED BY STRESSING US INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH HIS GOVERNMENT ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND COMMON INTERESTS.

2. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR US SUPPORT IN THE PAST IN VARIOUS FIELDS AND ESPECIALLY IN MILITARY AREA. IN THIS REGARD, HE NOTED THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT IS NOW
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SANA 01898 230919Z

PREPARED TO TRANSFER FOUR F-5S TO YEMEN AS WELL AS TO BEGIN TRAINING OF YEMENI PILOTS IN THE US. GHASHMI EXPRESSED NEED FOR CLOSE YEMENI RELATIONS WITH THE US AND SAUDI ARABIA, POINTING OUT THE COMMON DANGER POSED TO YEMEN AND TO SAUDI ARABIA BY THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN ADEN AND SOVIET SUPPORT THEREOF.

3. PRESIDENT GHASHMI EXPRESSED THE FERVENT HOPE THAT THE US WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ENERGETICALLY TOWARDS AN EARLY SOLUTION TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM AND SAID THAT THE ONLY REASON IN THE PAST FOR SOVIET PENETRATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST HAD BEEN THIS ISSUE WHICH WOULD AGAIN BE USED BY THE SOVIETS TO MAKE A COME-BACK IF IT WERE NOT SETTLED SOON. HE UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR FULL US SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT SADAT, WHOM HE CALLED A BRAVE MAN. HE WARNED THAT SADAT WOULD NOT SURVIVE UNLESS ISRAEL COULD BE MADE TO SEE THAT IT WAS TO EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO MOVE FORWARD NOW BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE. HE WISHED PRESIDENT CARTER EVERY SUCCESS IN HIS PEACE-MAKING ENDEAVORS.

3. COMMENT: GHASHMI WAS IN A QUIET REFLECTIVE MOOD BUT FIRM IN EXPRESSING HIS OPINIONS AS STATED ABOVE, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE SPOKE ON THE NEED FOR CLOSE US/YEMEN RELATIONS AS WELL AS ON EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM.
SCOTES

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